

**APPROVED 07-12-05**  
**KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2005**  
**EXCHANGE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM 6A**

**Members Present:** Joshua Freed, Melody Cecilia James, Helen Nilon, James Nobles, Eleanor Owen, Ron Sterling, Clifford Thurston, Gwendolyn Williams, Nancy Witherbee (awaiting confirmation)

**Members Absent:** Howard Miller (excused), Eugene Wan (excused)

**Guests Present:** Rosea B. Adams, KC Ombuds; Linda Brown, KCASAAB Liaison

**Staff Present:** Sherry Hamilton, Jackie MacLean, Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson

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**I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

Board Chair Ron Sterling convened the meeting at 4:35 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce him/herself.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mental Health Task Force will meet on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in Olympia. One agenda item for this meeting is RSN allocation formula. Jean will email agenda to board members.

The newly appointed DSHS Secretary, Robin Arnold-Williams, released a memo related to department changes to improve service and relationships. Effective July 1, 2005, the WA State Mental Health Division (MHD), the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) and the Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) will be under a single administration to be headed by WA State's MAA.

NAMI Eastside will hold an educational forum "Making Choices: Achieving Wellness and Recovery" on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at Evergreen Hospital and Medical Center, Room TAN 100, located at 12040 NE 128<sup>th</sup> Street, Kirkland. Dr. John Chiles of the University of Washington, Port Townsend is the presenter.

**III. MINUTES**

Eleanor Owen made a motion, which was seconded by Joshua Freed to approve the joint board meeting minutes of April 12, 2005 as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously.

A minor correction was noted on the May 10, 2005 minutes. The meeting date on the minutes was incorrect. Eleanor Owen made a motion and seconded by Jim Nobles to approve the May 10, 2005 minutes as corrected. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

#### **A. Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair for 2005**

The Nominations Committee has recommended Ron Sterling for Board chairmanship and Eleanor Owen as Vice Chair. There being no other candidates nominated from the floor for these positions, the board cast written ballots. Filled in ballots were turned in to Rhoda Naguit for counting. The result of the election is as follows:

Board Chair: Ron Sterling - 9 votes

Vice Chair: Eleanor Owen - 8 votes

#### **B. Review of Board and Committee Assignments**

Copies of Board and Committee Assignments were distributed for review and updating.

New board members who have not signed up for a liaison or committee assignment were encouraged to select from the list of board and committee assignments.

Allan Panitch would like to check out the Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee. Eleanor Owen who has been involved in several working committees for the past years, has expressed desire to focus on Recovery Initiative Committee this year. Ron Sterling decided to move back to Quality Council from Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee.

Ron encouraged board members to attend any of the committee meetings to feel which one he/she would like to join.

#### **C. Proposed Organizational and Orientation Meeting**

Board Chair Ron Sterling proposed a separate 3-4 hours organizational meeting for the board. He opened the floor for further discussion about this proposed meeting. Asked if there is any interest in holding such meeting and if so, what they would like to discuss.

Eleanor is in favor of holding this kind of meeting which she feels would be beneficial for both old and new members. The orientation meeting would help fill in the gap between board members with vast knowledge of mental health system and those with more limited knowledge of the system. With the pending integration of mental health, chemical dependency, and medical assistance administration under a single administration, it will be extremely helpful to understand the impact of this move on mental health system.

Eleanor made a motion, which was seconded by Joshua Freed to hold an orientation/organization meeting on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> in lieu of the regular board meeting from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. PRESENTATION – Jackie MacLean, DCHS Director**

Jackie MacLean, Director of the King County Department of Community and Human Services, briefly introduced herself for the benefit of board members who might not know her well. She stated that before her appointment as Director of Community and Human Services Department, she served in several capacities under the Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division as Assistant Manager then Division Manager.

Jackie acknowledged the Board's efforts and commitment to providing liaisons to agency providers that increases the Board's visibility in the community. She specifically mentioned the yearly joint legislative forum sponsored by the Division.

She also identified the other citizen boards in the department and handed out brochures about the seven citizen boards.

She briefly described the program services provided by four service divisions under the Department of Community and Human Services, which include: Community Service Division, Developmental Disabilities Division, Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division, and the Office of Public Defender.

Jackie gave an overview of the Department budget. For 2005, the total budget of the department is \$235 million that comes from multiple sources. The Department has over 400 staff and is the second largest human service system in state after the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). King County devotes over \$27 million of its resources to support human services through the department. 80% of the resources are used to contract with community agencies that provide both outpatient and inpatient substance abuse services. 13% of the resources are used for direct services such as the mandated crisis and commitment services. Only 7% goes to administrative costs.

Ms. MacLean discussed the Department service priorities for 2005: homelessness, employment, and criminal justice system services. Under her leadership, she encourages all divisions in the department to work collaboratively to address these issues and avoid duplication in services. Because of this emphasis, there has been a significant improvement in the coordination and collaboration among programs and services in the Department.

King County has dedicated over \$31 million to homeless programs for 2005. There are over 8,000 homeless people in King County. A ten-year Plan to end homelessness in King County is now being implemented by the department. Two new staff has been hired – Jeff Natter, Committee to End Homelessness Project Director, and Gretchen Bruce, Project Manager, to set up the administrative structure, collect data and facilitate the implementation of this plan. To address the problem of homelessness, strategies include increased availability of affordable housing and supportive services and build the community and political will.

The underlying reasons why people are homeless include lack of education and basic skills. We need to improve linkages to employment services for our target populations. All the employment programs of King County are under DCHS, except for employment programs for kids.

Two years ago, the department received funding for criminal justice programs that provide alternative to incarceration. New resources amounting to \$3 million have been dedicated to creating innovative programs, new staff liaison roles, cross system collaborations, dedicated housing, and access to treatment. Initial findings or evaluation result will be released soon.

Another initiative is the Task Force on Regional Human Services which was convened by County Executive Ron Sims last year. The group was created to examine the current system and to submit recommendations on how to improve and stabilize the regional human service system for the future. The Task Force found out that the region is unable to meet the current basic human service needs of County residents, that the current system lacks strategic and coordinated service planning on regional and local levels and highlighted the need to develop a regional structure and funding sources. A committee will meet next month to put a measure on the ballot for a tax increase in 2006. A department staff is looking into this.

Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division applied for funding for intervention services.

The County is opposed to JLARC's proposal to build a mental health jail. This is an issue that the board should support. A copy of one-pager paper from JLARC will be provided to board members later.

The Board informed Jackie how much they appreciate Division staff's responsiveness and patience in working with the board.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee – Eleanor Owen**

The Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee Meeting will be next Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **B. Nominations Update – Helen Nilon**

The Nominations Committee has recommended the re-appointment of Eleanor Owen, Helen Nilon, Jim Nobles and Gwendolyn Williams to the board.

Helen Nilon made a motion, which was seconded by Joshua Freed to approve the re-appointment of the above-mentioned board members for another three-year term. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **C. Quality Council – Helen Nilon**

A survey of consumers who could not access current services but who might qualify for publicly funded mental health system is being researched. Helen reported that she had contacted WA Institute regarding survey tool mechanism. The Quality Council will discuss this survey tool at their meeting on Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **D. Recovery Initiatives Committee – Eleanor Owen**

The Recovery Initiatives Committee met and revised and updated the Committee Charter. A copy of the charter will be sent to board members for review and approval.

## **VI. STAFF REPORT – Jean Robertson**

### **A. Jail Diversion**

Jean noted the jail diversion program has been negatively impacted due to lack of funding for the service to be provided by the Harborview Hospital Crisis Triage Unit (CTU).

## **B. Recovery Plan**

The Division is working on the Recovery Plan. This plan will be presented before the King County Council on September 8 or 15, 2005. The Plan should be submitted to the Clerk of the Council by August 10, 2005 to be placed on the agenda for the Metropolitan King County Council meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Recovery Plan and the new ordinance will be an agenda item for discussion at the July 8, 2005 Partnership meeting. Jackie MacLean will also be given a copy of the draft document for review and approval by July 8<sup>th</sup>. The King County Mental Health Advisory Board will review and discuss the draft at the July 12, 2005 meeting. In addition to these meetings, there will be several provider/stakeholder meetings to get input on the Proposed Ordinance, prior to its transmission to the Council.

## **C. Budget**

Non-Medicaid funding has been re-allocated resulting in a \$30M cut in funding. Jean explained the concept of actuary study. King County is losing Medicaid funds because the state reallocated funding by making all RSN rates the same. This will mean that King County funding will be reduced again this year.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the funding cut issue. The Department is considering other means to let DSHS know that cutting funds is not acceptable. Another strategy is to work with the County Executive on political implication of this move.

## **VII. LIAISON REPORTS**

### **James Nobles: Chronic Populations Action Council**

There is a proposal to merge this committee with other working committees with the same goals under a single committee.

### **Helen Nilon: Seattle Mental Health and Partnership Group**

The only addition from Jean's staff report was an announcement at the Partnership group last month where it was noted that a one-time only meeting will be held on June 29<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon to get input and discuss re-formatting the Policy and Procedure Manual for the purpose of making it user friendly.

Seattle Mental Health (SMH) raised \$10,000 from its the "Lord of the Ring" fundraising event.

SMH also received grant for summer activities for kids. A presentation on mentally ill Offender (MIO) was made in California. California plans to pattern their MIO program after SMH's. The agency recently underwent audit and received no demerits. As ever, the agency is very busy and doing good work.

**Gwendolyn Williams: Therapeutic Health Services**

Due to date/time change of THS board meeting which conflicts with KCMHAB meeting date, Gwen has been unable to attend THS board meeting for two months. In view of this, she will request for copy of their board minutes to share with our board.

**Clifford Thurston: Consumer Operated Programs**

Clifford reported that the Transformation grant has been submitted by the State. This grant will provide funding for consumer programs.

Board Chair Ron Sterling announced that this is the last meeting for Clifford. He has served the board for two-terms. Ron expressed his appreciation for his service to the board and wished him well as he pursues other avenues of public service.

**Eleanor Owen: Western State Hospital**

The hospital received high marks from the joint commission of accreditation. Also, the hospital will continue to focus on closing PALS.

**VIII. BOARD AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS**

Board Chair Sterling asked for an update on liquidation damage. Jean responded that with all the current changes at DSHS, particularly with the resignation of Karl Brimner as Mental Health Division Director, this issue is not being addressed at this time. Tim Brown is currently acting MHD Director until this position is filled.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit  
Recording Secretary

Ron Sterling  
Board Chair